



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Vishnu K. Agarwal

Serial No.: 09/652,968

Filed: August 31, 2000

For: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING
AGAINST OXIDATION OF A CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID
DEVICE

§ Group Art Unit: 2815

§ Examiner: José R. Diaz

§ Atty. Docket: 98-0616.12

Am dt

7(B)

6-27-01

T. Flowers

FIRST AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE
OFFICE ACTION OF DECEMBER 14, 2000

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Certificate of Mailing (37 C.F.R. § 1.8)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date below:

6-14-01

Date

Vishnu K. Agarwal

Signature

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Per the Examiner's restriction requirement in the Office Action of December 14, 2000,
please amend the above application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claim to the form indicated below.

43. (Once amended) A method of passivating a multilayer conductive structure, comprising:
layering a first conductive material;
introducing N₂/H₂ gas to said first conductive material;
releasing nitrogen from said gas with electromagnetic energy; and
layering a second conductive material over said first conductive material.